CLAIMS:

A-method-of-coding-a-plurality-of-multimedia-data-comprising the following steps:

- an acquisition step, for converting said original multimedia data into one or several bitstreams;
- a structuring step, for capturing the different levels of information in said bitstream(s) by means of analysis and segmentation;
 - a description step, for generating description data of the obtained levels of information;
 - a coding step, allowing to encode the description data thus obtained; wherein said description step comprises:
 - a defining sub-step provided for storing a set of descriptors related to said plurality of multimedia data; and
 - a description sub-step, provided for selecting the description data to be coded in accordance with every level of information as obtained in the structuring step; and said set of descriptors includes at least a shape descriptor and a shape deformation descriptor.
 - 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shape descriptor is defined by means of the following characteristics:
- 20 Centroid (C_x, C_y) : coordinates of the centroid of the contour.
 - Angle θ : angle between horizontal and main axis of the contour.
 - Size of the original contour N: size of the contour after resampling.
 - Set of ordered Fourier coefficients Z_k : set of invariant Fourier coefficients.
 - Size of the Fourier coefficients set P: size of the preceding set, with $1 < P \le$

25 P being necessarily odd.

Scale: scale parameter.

and the shape deformation descriptor is defined by means of the following

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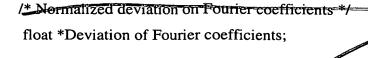
Normalized deviation of the seale: normalized deviation of the scale parameter over the video sequence.

- Maximal size of the original contours N_{max} : the maximal size of the original contour sizes N over the video sequence. N is an item of the shape descriptor.
- Normalized deviations of each Fourier coefficient σ_{zk} : normalized deviations of each Fourier coefficient over the video sequence.
 - Size of the set of normalized deviations of each Fourier coefficient M: size of the preceding set.
- 10 3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the following C structure is associated to said shape descriptor:

```
typedef struct Shape Descriptor {
       /* Centroid */
       long center x;
       long center y;
       /* Angle */
       float theta;
      /* Size of the original contour, after resampling (N) */
      long size of contour;
      /* Set of/Fourier coefficients */
      float *Fourier Coefficients;
      /* Size of the set of Fourier coefficients (P) */
     long/size Fourier Descriptors Set;
    };
    and/the following C structure is associated to said shape deformation descriptor:
       * Normalized deviation of scale */
       float Deviation of Scale;
```

/* Maximal size of the original contours in the video sequence (N max)

*/long Maximal Size of Original contours;



/* Size of the set of normalized deviations of Fourier coefficients */
lng Size of Fourier Cefficients Set;
};

4. For use in a coding device provided for encoding a plurality of multimedia data, computer-executable process steps provided to be stored on a computer-readable storage medium and comprising the following steps:

- an acquisition step, for converting said original multimedia data into one or several bitstreams;
- a structuring step, for capturing the different levels of information in said bitstream(s) by means of analysis and segmentation;
- a description step, for generating description data of the obtained levels of information;
- a coding step, allowing to encode the description data thus obtained; wherein said description step comprises:
- a defining sub-step provided for storing a set of descriptors related to said plurality of multimedia data; and
- a description sub-step, provided for selecting the description data to be coded in accordance with every level of information as obtained in the structuring step; and said set of descriptors includes at least a shape descriptor and a shape deformation descriptor.
- 5. A computer program product for a multimedia data coding device, comprising a set of instructions which when loaded into said coding device lead it to carry out the process steps as claimed in claim 4.

6. A transmittable coded signal produced by encoding multimedia data according to a coding method as claimed in claim 1.



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7. A method of decoding and processing a signal-as claim 6, wherein said method comprises the following steps-

- a decoding step,
- a storing step, for storing the decoded signals;
- a search step, actuated by an user;
 - a retrieval step, on the basis of the actuated search and the stored, decoded

signals.